

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellants:	Steven J. SIMSKE et al.	§	Confirmation No.:	3337
		§		
Serial No.:	10/715,179	§	Group Art Unit:	2151
		§		
Filed:	11/17/2003	§	Examiner:	Khanh Q. Dinh
		§		
For:	Email Application With	§	Docket No.:	200310947-1
	User Voice Interface	§		

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents

Date: April 16, 2008

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Appellants hereby submit this Appeal Brief in connection with the above-identified application. A Notice of Appeal was electronically filed on February 28, 2008.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	REAL PARTY IN INTEREST	3
II.	RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES.....	4
III.	STATUS OF THE CLAIMS	5
IV.	STATUS OF THE AMENDMENTS.....	6
V.	SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER.....	7
VI.	GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL.....	10
VII.	ARGUMENT.....	11
	A. The <i>Guedalia</i> Reference	11
	B. Claims 1-10	12
	C. Claims 11-18	15
	D. Claims 19-25	16
	E. Claims 26-29	18
	F. Conclusion.....	18
VIII.	CLAIMS APPENDIX.....	20
IX.	EVIDENCE APPENDIX	26
X.	RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX	27

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. (HPDC), a Texas Limited Partnership, having its principal place of business in Houston, Texas. HPDC is a wholly owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company (HPC). The Assignment from the inventors to HPDC was recorded on November 27, 2003, at Reel/Frame 014713/0150.

Appl. No. 10/715,179
Appeal Brief dated April 16, 2008
Reply to final Office action of January 24, 2008

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants are unaware of any related appeals or interferences.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Originally filed claims: 1-29.

Claim cancellations: None.

Added claims: None.

Presently pending claims: 1-29.

Presently appealed claims: 1-29.

Appl. No. 10/715,179
Appeal Brief dated April 16, 2008
Reply to final Office action of January 24, 2008

IV. STATUS OF THE AMENDMENTS

No claims were amended after the final Office action dated January 24, 2008.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellants' contribution relates to a voice-driven email browser. The disclosed embodiments improve the efficiency of navigating emails using automatic speech recognition (ASR), text-to-speech (TTS) technology, and text summarization techniques.¹

Appellants' Figure 4 illustrates a voice-based email browser 130 in accordance with embodiments. At block 402, a start signal is received. At block 404, a user then chooses to review emails in one of the sequencing modes "full," "summary," "senders," "subjects," and "importance."² While in one of the sequencing modes, a user can control email content using voice commands for functions such as "expand/contract," "next instance of current topic," "repeat," "skip to end" and "email string" as shown in block 406.³ Further, while in one of the sequencing modes, various active interrupts are supported at block 408.⁴ Further, while in one of the sequencing modes, a user can jump to related emails "by topic," "by to/from/subject," "by temporal cue" or "by

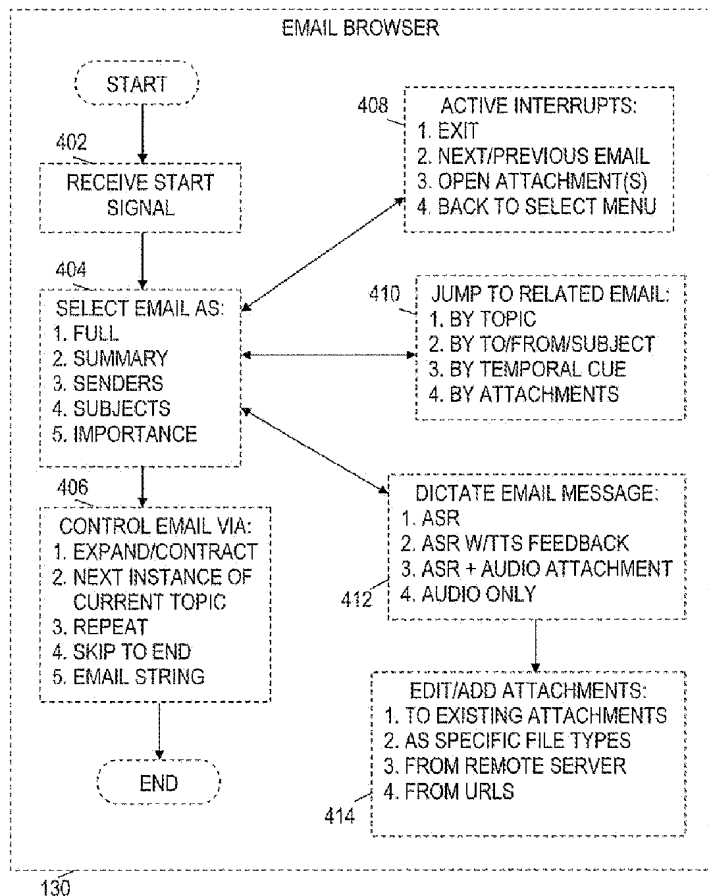


FIGURE 4

¹ See lines 1-4 of paragraph [0010], page 2.

² See line 15 of paragraph [0021], page 7 – line 13 of paragraph [0025], page 8.

³ See line 1 of paragraph [0026], page 9 – line 12 of paragraph [0028], page 10.

⁴ See line 1 of paragraph [0029], page 10 – line 14 of paragraph [0030], page 11.

attachments” as in block 410.⁵ Further, while in one of the sequencing modes, a user can dictate an email message using ASR, ASR with TTS feedback, ASR and audio attachment or audio only as in block 412.⁶ When dictating a message, attachments can be added or edited as existing attachments, as specific file types, from a remote server or from a URL as in block 414.⁷

According to the invention of claim 1, a system (100), comprises a user voice interface (110) and a processor (102) coupled to the user voice interface (110).⁸ The processor (102) interprets words spoken by a user through the user voice interface (110).⁹ The system (100) also comprises a memory (104) coupled to the processor (102), wherein the memory (104) stores an email application (130) executed by the processor (102).¹⁰ The email application (130) summarizes email messages and navigates a plurality of email messages according to the words spoken by the user.¹¹

According to the invention of claim 11, a method comprises receiving voice commands and selecting a mode for sequencing through a plurality of emails according to a voice command.¹² The method further comprises presenting content of a select email to a user according to a voice command.¹³ The method

⁵ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 1-11 of paragraph [0031], page 11.

⁶ See Figures 1 and 4; and line 1 of paragraph [0032], page 11 – line 17 of paragraph [0033], page 12.

⁷ See Figures 1 and 4; and line 1 of paragraph [0034], page 12 – line 6 of paragraph [0035], page 13.

⁸ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 1-8 of paragraph [0011], pages 2-3.

⁹ See Figures 1 and 4; lines 5-7 of paragraph [0012], page 3; and lines 1-3 of paragraph [0013], page 3.

¹⁰ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 9-11 of paragraph [0012], page 3.

¹¹ See Figures 1 and 4; lines 1-10 of paragraph [0016], page 5; and lines 4-16 of paragraph [0018], pages 5-6.

¹² See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 6-15 of paragraph [0022], page 7.

¹³ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 1-6 of paragraph [0026], page 9.

further comprises accessing an email containing text related to the presented email according to a voice command.¹⁴

According to the invention of claim 19, a computer readable medium (104) containing instructions (130) that are executable by a computer system (100) is provided.¹⁵ When executed the instructions (130) implement a method comprising selecting a mode for sequencing a plurality of emails according to a voice command of a user.¹⁶ The method further comprises dynamically changing content presentation of a select email according to a voice command of the user.¹⁷ The method further comprises accessing an email containing text related to the select email according to a voice command of a user.¹⁸

According to the invention of claim 26, a system (100) comprises a processor (102) and a memory (104) coupled to the processor (102).¹⁹ The system (100) further comprises means for interpreting voice commands of a user received from a remote communication device.²⁰ The system further comprises means for changing an email sequencing mode according to a voice command of the user.²¹ The system further comprises means for dynamically changing email content presented to a user according to a voice command of the user.²²

¹⁴ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 1-11 of paragraph [0031], page 11.

¹⁵ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 9-11 of paragraph [0012], page 3.

¹⁶ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 6-15 of paragraph [0022], page 7.

¹⁷ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 1-6 of paragraph [0026], page 9.

¹⁸ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 1-11 of paragraph [0031], page 11.

¹⁹ See Figures 1 and 4; lines 1-8 of paragraph [0011], pages 2-3; lines 5-7 of paragraph [0012], page 3; and lines 1-3 of paragraph [0013], page 3.

²⁰ See Figures 1 and 4; lines 1-11 of paragraph [0012], page 3; and lines 7-10 of paragraph [0024], page 8.

²¹ See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 6-15 of paragraph [0022], page 7.

²² See Figures 1 and 4; and lines 1-6 of paragraph [0026], page 9.

Appl. No. 10/715,179
Appeal Brief dated April 16, 2008
Reply to final Office action of January 24, 2008

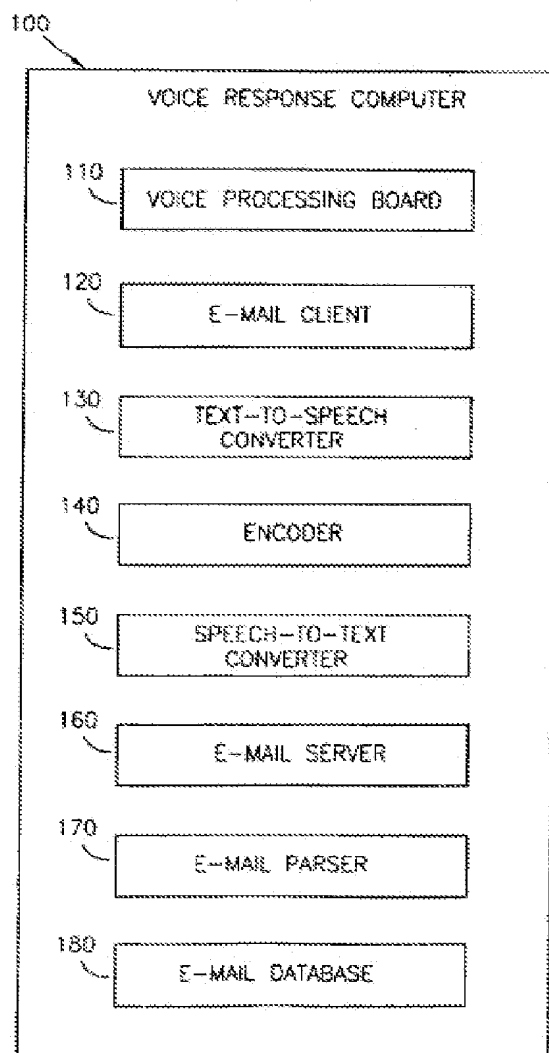
VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether claims 1-29 are anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,907,112
(*"Guedalia"*).

VII. ARGUMENT

A. The *Guedalia* Reference

FIG. 1A



In *Guedalia*, a system for retrieving emails via telephone and/or for preparing emails via telephone is described. Fig. 1A shows various features of *Guedalia*'s system. In Fig. 1A, a voice response computer 100 is shown with a voice processing board 110, an e-mail client 120, a text-to-speech converter 130, an encoder 140, a speech-to-text converter 150, an e-mail server 160, an e-mail parser 170 and an e-mail database 180 (see col. 22, line 30 – col. 23, line 23). In summary, the voice processing board 110 processes incoming and outgoing voice messages. The e-mail client 120 sends or receives emails from local and/or remote email servers. The text-to-speech converter 130 converts text messages into voice messages. The encoder 140 compresses audio files (e.g., WAV files). The speech-to-text

converter 150 converts voice messages into text messages. The e-mail server 160 is a local server for outgoing e-mail. The e-mail parser 170 extracts text from e-mails and breaks e-mail text into smaller units (e.g., sentences) for text-to-speech processes. The e-mail database 180 stores e-mails.

Guedalia's system is described as follows:

"The present specification describes a method and system for retrieving e-mail by dialing in from a telephone to a voice response unit. The e-mail is converted to speech and read to the user over the phone. Various selections can be made by pushing the buttons of the telephone, and the user can effectively scroll through his e-mail and choose the messages to listen to." Col. 20, lines 22-28.

"The present specification also describes a method and system for replying to e-mail through a telephone. The reply takes one or both of two forms: (1) a text e-mail reply, generated from the speech reply by a speech-to-text converter, and (2) an audio file that contains a recording of the speech reply therewithin. In one preferred embodiment of the present invention, the audio file is sent back to the original sender as a MIME attachment within a reply e-mail, in a standard audio format such as a WAV file." Col. 20, lines 29-38.

"When the original sender receives the reply e-mail, he can download the WAV file to his local computer and play the file to listen to the recorded reply. In another preferred embodiment the audio file is posted on an Internet web site in a streaming audio format such as REALAUDIO R, and a reply e-mail notification is sent to the original sender having an Internet link to the audio file therewithin. When the original sender receives the reply e-mail, he can click on the link to play the audio file." Col. 20, lines 39-47.

In summary, *Guedalia* teaches a system for retrieving emails via telephone and/or for preparing emails via telephone. However, *Guedalia* does not teach Appellants' various claimed limitations such as summarizing emails and email attachments, jumping between related emails, selecting different modes for sequencing through emails, handling interrupts during presentation of an email, and dynamically changing the content of an email being presented.

B. Claims 1-10

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the...claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Appl. No. 10/715,179
Appeal Brief dated April 16, 2008
Reply to final Office action of January 24, 2008

With respect to claim 1, *Guedalia* fails to teach “the email application summarizes email messages.” First, the Examiner argues that above limitation does not have to mean reducing an email to a paragraph, sentence, or word. See Final Office Action dated 01/24/08, page 9, item 4. Appellants agree and only provided an explanation of the term “summarizes” because the Examiner appears to be mischaracterizing the term. To further support Appellants’ clarification, reference may be had to the Encarta® World English Dictionary, North American Edition, which defines the term “summarize” as “to give a shortened version of something that has been said or written, stating its main points.”

The Examiner argues that an internet (http) link to an “audio e-mail” anticipates Appellants’ claimed limitation. See Final Office Action dated 01/24/08, page 10, first paragraph. Appellants disagree. *Guedalia*’s audio email is not a summarization because the entire e-mail is provided. Further, *Guedalia*’s internet link is not a summarization because there is no indication that the internet link provides any information regarding the content of the linked e-mail. *Guedalia* simply states that a user can “click on the link to play the audio file” (see col. 20, lines 45-47). *Guedalia* also mentions e-mails having the data fields “FROM, RE, DATE, a text body and attachments (see col. 21, lines 44-46). However, these data fields are common to e-mails and must be filled in by the user. *Guedalia* also mentions audio file compression to facilitate storage or transfer of audio files, however, such compression does not affect the playback content of the audio file. In contrast to *Guedalia*’s teachings, Appellants’ claim 1 requires “[an] email application [that] summarizes email messages.” *Guedalia* has no such teaching. Based on the foregoing, Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims be reversed, and the claims set for issue.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 3 requires that “the email application provides content-based re-direction between at least two items selected from the group consisting of emails and email attachments.” The Examiner cites col. 24, lines 14-60 of *Guedalia* as anticipating these limitations. See Final Office Action dated 01/24/08, page 3,

second full paragraph. The cited passages refer to various steps for sending and accessing audio files, but do not teach “content-based re-direction” between emails or email attachments as in claim 3. In other words, Appellants’ email application enables a user to “jump” between emails or email attachments related by content. *Guedalia* has no such teaching. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 3 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 7 requires that “the email application controls email content presented to a user according to at least one voice-controlled function selected from a group consisting of expanding a summary sentence to a surrounding paragraph, contracting an email paragraph to a summary sentence, contracting an email to a summary, accessing a next instance of a topic in an email, accessing a next instance of a topic in an email attachment, repeating a sentence of an email, repeating a paragraph of an email, repeating an email, skipping to the end of an email, and accessing emails within an email string.” The Examiner cites col. 27, lines 8-65 of *Guedalia* as anticipating these limitations. See Final Office Action dated 01/24/08, page 3, last paragraph. The cited passages refer to accessing audio files, which may be stored in a database, but do not teach Appellants’ various content presentation features as in claim 7. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 7 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 8 requires that “the email application weights words of a text to generate summaries of emails and email attachments.” The Examiner cites Fig. 2A, col. 24, lines 26 – col. 25, line 44, and col. 26, lines 10-46 of *Guedalia* as anticipating these limitations. See Final Office Action dated 01/24/08, page 4, first full paragraph. The cited passages are unrelated to weighting words of an email or email attachment to generate summaries as in claim 8. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 8 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

Claim 10 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 10 requires that “the email application permit a user via voice commands to perform a function selected from a group consisting of adding an attachment to an existing attachment, editing an existing attachment, adding an attachment from a remote server, adding a URL-based attachment, and adding meta-data to a header of an attachment.” The Examiner cites col. 24, lines 26 – col. 25, line 44 of *Guedalia* as anticipating these limitations. See Final Office Action dated 01/24/08, page 4, second full paragraph. The cited passages appear to be unrelated to email attachments and much less the limitations of claim 10. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 10 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

C. Claims 11-18

With respect to claim 11, *Guedalia* fails to teach “selecting a mode for sequencing through a plurality of emails according to a voice command.” The Examiner cites Fig. 1A and col. 22, lines 8-59 of *Guedalia* as anticipating this limitation. See Final Office Action dated 01/24/08, page 10, second paragraph. The cited passages describe options for attaching an audio file or posting an audio file on a website. Further, the cited passages describe options for downloading an audio file or “streaming” an audio file. The cited passages are unrelated to selecting a mode for sequencing through a plurality of email as in claim 11 at least because the cited passages apply to each separate email and not to sequencing through a plurality of emails as in claim 11.

Claim 11 further requires “accessing an email containing text related to the presented email according to a voice command.” *Guedalia* does not appear to teach jumping between related emails as in claim 11. Based on the foregoing, Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 11 and its dependent claims be reversed, and the claims set for issue.

Claim 13 depends from claim 11 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 13 requires “activating an interrupt while presenting content of the selected email according to a voice command” where the interrupt causes “exiting an email browser,” “going to a next email,” “going to a previous email,” “opening

an attachment” or “returning to an email sequencing mode select menu.” The Examiner cites col. 24, lines 14-60 of *Guedalia* as anticipating these limitations. See Final Office Action dated 01/24/08, page 5, second full paragraph. The cited passages do not mention voice-based interrupts while presenting an email as in claim 13. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 13 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

Claim 14 depends from claim 11 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 14 requires that “the mode for sequencing through a plurality of emails is selected from a group consisting of an entire email mode, an email summary mode, an email subject mode, an email sender mode, and an important emails mode.” The Examiner cites Fig. 2A, col. 24, lines 26 – col. 25, line 44, and col. 26, lines 10-46 of *Guedalia* as anticipating these limitations. The cited passages do not teach Appellants’ claimed modes for sequencing through a plurality of emails. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 14 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

D. Claims 19-25

Claim 19, in part, requires “selecting a mode for sequencing a plurality of emails according to a voice command of a user” and “accessing an email containing text related to the select email according to a voice command of a user.” For much the same reasons as given previously with respect to claim 11, *Guedalia* does not teach these limitations.

Claim 19 further requires “dynamically changing content presentation of a select email according to a voice command of the user.” *Guedalia* only supports listening to an entire audio file and does not dynamically change the content as in claim 19. Based on the foregoing, Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 19 and its dependent claims be reversed, and the claims set for issue.

Claim 20 depends from claim 19 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 20 requires “summarizing emails and email attachments presentable to the user.” For much the same reasons as given previously with respect to claim 1, *Guedalia* does not teach this limitation. For at least this

Appl. No. 10/715,179
Appeal Brief dated April 16, 2008
Reply to final Office action of January 24, 2008

additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 20 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

Claim 21 depends from claim 19 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 21 requires “using voice-based web navigation techniques to perform a search for information related to content of the select email” and “audibly presenting results of said search to the user.” Linking audio files as in *Guedalia* does not involve searching as in claim 21. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 21 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

Claim 24 depends from claim 19 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 24 requires “managing interrupts while an email is being presented, wherein the interrupts are selected from a group consisting of exiting the email application, accessing a next email, accessing a previous email, opening an attachment, returning to an email sequencing menu, accessing another email that contains similar content, and accessing an email attachment that contains similar content.” For much the same reasons as given previously with respect to claim 13, *Guedalia* does not teach the interrupts of claim 24. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 24 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

Claim 25 depends from claim 19 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 25 requires “managing access to related email, wherein the emails are related by at least one item selected from a group consisting of topic, TO field, FROM field, SUBJECT field, temporal cue, and attachments.” For much the same reasons as given previously with respect to claim 11, *Guedalia* does not teach accessing related emails as in claim 25. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 25 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

E. Claims 26-29

With regard to claim 26, *Guedalia* fails to teach “means for changing an email sequencing mode according to a voice command of the user.” The cited passages do not teach changing an email sequencing mode as in claim 26. For much the same reasons as given previously with respect to claim 11, *Guedalia* does not teach changing an email sequencing mode as in claim 26.

Claim 26 further requires “means for dynamically changing email content presented to a user according to a voice command of the user.” For much the same reasons as given previously with respect to claim 19, *Guedalia* does not teach “dynamically changing email content presented to a user” as in claim 26. Based on the foregoing, Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 26 and its dependent claims be reversed, and the claims set for issue.

Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 27 requires “means for summarizing text of an email.” For much the same reasons as given previously with respect to claim 1, *Guedalia* does not teach Appellants’ means for summarizing text of an email as in claim 27. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 27 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

Claim 29 depends from claim 26 and is allowable for the same reasons. In addition, claim 29 requires “the email sequencing mode allows a user to visually or audibly access text selected from a group consisting of entire emails, email summaries, email senders, email subjects, and important emails.” For much the same reasons as given previously with respect to claim 11, *Guedalia* does not teach Appellants’ email sequencing modes as in claim 29. For at least this additional reason, Appellants request that the rejection of claim 29 be reversed and the claim set for issue.

F. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner erred in rejecting all pending claims. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional

Appl. No. 10/715,179
Appeal Brief dated April 16, 2008
Reply to final Office action of January 24, 2008

extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

/Alan D. Christenson/

Alan D. Christenson
PTO Reg. No. 54,036
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANTS

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
Legal Dept., M/S 35
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Original) A system, comprising:
a user voice interface;
a processor coupled to the user voice interface, wherein the processor interprets words spoken by a user through the user voice interface;
and
a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory stores an email application executed by the processor, wherein the email application summarizes email messages and navigates a plurality of email messages according to the words spoken by the user.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the email application accesses information on a network related to a word spoken by the user and displays the information to the user.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the email application provides content-based re-direction between at least two items selected from the group consisting of emails and email attachments.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the user voice interface is selected from the group consisting of a cell phone, a telephone, and a microphone.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a speaker coupled to the processor, wherein the speaker audibly communicates options provided by the email application to the user.
6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the speaker further allows written content of emails and email attachments to be communicated audibly to a user of the email application.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the email application controls email content presented to a user according to at least one voice-controlled function selected from a group consisting of expanding a summary sentence to a surrounding paragraph, contracting an email paragraph to a summary sentence, contracting an email to a summary, accessing a next instance of a topic in an email, accessing a next instance of a topic in an email attachment, repeating a sentence of an email, repeating a paragraph of an email, repeating an email, skipping to the end of an email, and accessing emails within an email string.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the email application weights words of a text to generate summaries of emails and email attachments.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the email application allows a user to dictate words for a voice-activated function selected from a group consisting of creating an email message, editing an email attachment, filling in fields of an email, and creating an audio version of an email.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the email application permit a user via voice commands to perform a function selected from a group consisting of adding an attachment to an existing attachment, editing an existing attachment, adding an attachment from a remote server, adding a URL-based attachment, and adding meta-data to a header of an attachment.

11. (Original) A method, comprising:
receiving voice commands;
selecting a mode for sequencing through a plurality of emails according to a voice command;
presenting content of a select email to a user according to a voice command; and
accessing an email containing text related to the presented email according to a voice command.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising accessing an email attachment related to the presented content of the selected email according to a voice command.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising activating an interrupt while presenting content of the selected email according to a voice command, wherein the interrupt causes an action selected from a group consisting of:

- exiting an email browser;
- going to a next email;
- going to a previous email;
- opening an attachment; and
- returning to an email sequencing mode select menu.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the mode for sequencing through a plurality of emails is selected from a group consisting of an entire email mode, an email summary mode, an email subject mode, an email sender mode, and an important emails mode.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising dictating an email message according to a voice command.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising adding an email attachment according to a voice command.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising editing an email attachment according to a voice command.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein further comprising searching for information on a network related to text of an email using a voice command.

19. (Original) A computer readable medium containing instructions that are executable by a computer system, and when executed the instructions implement a method comprising:

- selecting a mode for sequencing a plurality of emails according to a voice command of a user;
- dynamically changing content presentation of a select email according to a voice command of the user; and
- accessing an email containing text related to the select email according to a voice command of a user.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein executing the instructions implement a method further comprising summarizing emails and email attachments presentable to the user.

21. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein executing the instructions implement a method further comprising:

- using voice-based web navigation techniques to perform a search for information related to content of the select email; and
- audibly presenting results of said search to the user.

22. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein executing the instructions implement a method further comprising dictating words of an email according to a voice-activated function selected from a group consisting of automatic speech recognition, automatic speech recognition with text-to-speech feedback, automatic speech recognition plus an audio attachment, and audio only.

23. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein executing the instructions implement a method further comprising performing a voice-activated function selected from a group consisting of adding an attachment to an existing attachment, editing an existing attachment, adding an attachment from a

remote server, adding a URL-based attachment, and adding meta-data to a header of an attachment.

24. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein executing the instructions implement a method further comprising managing interrupts while an email is being presented, wherein the interrupts are selected from a group consisting of exiting the email application, accessing a next email, accessing a previous email, opening an attachment, returning to an email sequencing menu, accessing another email that contains similar content, and accessing an email attachment that contains similar content.

25. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein executing the instructions implement a method further comprising managing access to related email, wherein the emails are related by at least one item selected from a group consisting of topic, TO field, FROM field, SUBJECT field, temporal cue, and attachments.

26. (Original) A system, comprising:
a processor;
a memory coupled to the processor;
means for interpreting voice commands of a user received from a remote communication device;
means for changing an email sequencing mode according to a voice command of the user; and
means for dynamically changing email content presented to a user according to a voice command of the user.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 further comprising means for summarizing text of an email.

28. (Original) The system of claim 26 further comprising means for accessing information related to text content of an email wherein the information is accessed from a source selected from a group consisting of emails, email attachments, Internet content, and Intranet content.

29. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the email sequencing mode allows a user to visually or audibly access text selected from a group consisting of entire emails, email summaries, email senders, email subjects, and important emails.

Appl. No. 10/715,179
Appeal Brief dated April 16, 2008
Reply to final Office action of January 24, 2008

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

Appl. No. 10/715,179
Appeal Brief dated April 16, 2008
Reply to final Office action of January 24, 2008

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.